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21 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: NSSM 229 Members

SUBJECT : Status of NSSM Action

1. At the Wednesday meeting of ICRC the NSC representative reported on the status of NSSM 229. He opened by acknowledging that at the October meeting of ICRC he had advised that the NSC hoped to launch the NSSM 229 study within the following week or ten days. He now reports that with the change of Scowcroft for Kissinger things are at an even less certain stage. (Scowcroft has not taken office. It is not clear that Kissinger has left that position.) The essence of his report is that he knows of no decision or inclination to abort NSSM 229 but that the Kissinger-Scowcroft change has added a new dimension which increases the push to the back burner as to the NSSM 229 requirements. He was clear that he believes that NSSM 229 will go forward.

2. He also indicated that it is the NSC intention that the Scowcroft group address itself at least at the initial stage only to larger questions such as the declassification authority of the Archivist with respect to Presidential papers, the status, functions of ICRC, or substitution of a different type of executive branch mechanism, etc. Should the executive branch move for a statutory classification system? He thought the Scowcroft group would address itself to a rewriting of the Executive order, or the draft of amendments, only, if at all, at a second stage.

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Associate General Counsel

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